5 March 1952

## QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE
## HUMAN AREA FILES PROJECT AND THE NIS

PROBLEM:

1. To undertake a general review of the NIS, its content, form, and means of support.

DISCUSSION:

2. The NIS has been underway now for some time. There have been questions raised regarding the availability of manpower to work on NIS in the face of other demands on researchers. There has been a very sizeable block of money assigned to the State Department and sublet to other non-IAC agencies for production (in connection with which there have arisen problems of the allocation of manpower within State Department in the face of budget cuts). There have been questions about the actual use being made of these materials by consumers and it has been very difficult to find end-users who have testified that it is really useful. There has been no systematic review of the original assumptions on which the project was based or of the form in which it is produced.

3. The establishment of the Human Area Files at New Haven and the selling of its production to the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and OPC presumably for psychological warfare purposes, raises the question of the duplication of this with the State Department contribution to NIS. It would appear that if the material is good enough for these agencies, why isn't it good enough for NIS -- what is the difference? If the State Department is theoretically most responsible for the production of intelligence in support of psychological warfare and the State

Department does not consider this to be a useful project, ought we

25X1A1 spend [REDACTED] of Government money to support the program?

RECOMMENDATION:

4. That a task force be established composed of representatives of CIA (Basic Division), State, Army, Navy, Air Force Intelligence Agencies, using consultants from consumers (operational and psychological warfare units) in these agencies to appraise:

a. At this juncture what is the user's opinion of the value of NIS in its present form?

b. What adaptations can be made which will make it more useful as well as possibly less expensive?

c. What external research can be employed to buttress the NIS program?

d. How, in fact, are the personnel assigned to NIS in the agencies employed in other than NIS work?

e. Through the modification of NIS, can manpower used in the preparation of NIS be used to greater extent in the assembly of data in support of indicators and estimates while still serving NIS objectives?